ABSTRACT

In a discharge lamp lighting apparatus, a power supplied to a discharge lamp La through a DC-DC converter 1 and an inverter 2 is controlled depending on detection results of a lamp voltage detection unit 6 and a lamp current detection unit 7, and in an electrode heating period an alternation time of an output to the discharge lamp when starting actuation of the discharge lamp is set longer than an alternation time in a steady lighting period, and the alternation time in the electrode heating period is increased depending on lowering of a supply power or current to the discharge lamp. Thus, even when a lamp current is suddenly changed, the discharge lamp is prevented from going off at the time of polarity inversion without lowering a life.